

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A storage system includes a cache and a collection of metadata, organized by their associations with regard to the data they represent. In one embodiment, the cache stores data blocks in a first plurality of locations. A first metadata storage stores metadata including block addresses of data blocks within the cache. A second metadata storage includes a second plurality of locations, each for storing metadata including a block address identifying a corresponding data block within the cache. The metadata stored within the second metadata storage also includes a first pointer to the corresponding data block. In addition, at least one of the second locations may store a second pointer to another of the second locations that stores metadata corresponding to a related data block. The cache and the first metadata storage are non-volatile storages; however, the second metadata storage may be a volatile storage.

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